

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 126132

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECAFE, ETRN

SUBJECT: ECAFE: PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON SHIPPING

REF: MOSCOW 9432

1. SRI LANKA LETTER REFERRED TO IN REFTEL IS PROBABLY SAME AS THAT DELIVERED TO NUMBER OF U.S. EMBASSIES, AS WELL AS TO DEPARTMENT. REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS CABLE SENT FOR USE OF EMBASSIES IN TOKYO AND COLOMBO ON SAME SUBJECT.

2. FOLLOWING SENT TOKYO COLOMBO INFO BANGKOK FROM SECSTATE WASHDC 13 JUN 74:

QUOTE UNCLAS STATE 126132

E.O. 11652: N/A

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REF: A) TOKYO 7620 (NOTAL); B) COLOMBO A-114 (NOTAL)

1. REF A IS CORRECT IN ASSUMING WE ARE WELL-ACQUAINTED WITH SRI LANKA'S SPONSORSHIP OF AN ECAFE COMMITTEE ON SHIPPING. WE SYMPATHIZE WITH CEYLONESE INTEREST IN MORE EFFICIENT TREATMENT OF SHIPPING PROBLEMS, BUT BELIEVE THIS CAN BE HANDLED WITHIN NEW NINE-COMMITTEE ECAFE STRUCTURE WHICH US SUPPORTS. WE DO NOT WISH TO DILUTE OR DIVERT THIS STRUCTURE BY CONSIDERING ADDITION OF ONE MORE COMMITTEE. BECAUSE OF THIS, WE AND AN APPARENT MAJORITY OF ECAFE MEMBERS HAVE OPPOSED SRI LANKA INITIATIVE FROM ITS BEGINNING. WE CONTINUE TO OPPOSE IT AND WILL DO SO IF SUBJECT IS RAISED AT JUNE 25-26 PERMREP MEETING. APPARENTLY REFS A AND B RESULT FROM SAME OR SIMILAR NOTES AND SO EMBASSIES MAY IN THEIR REPLIES USE ANY OF FOLLOWING BACKGROUND AND ARGUMENTATION.

2. ECAFE FOR MORE THAN A YEAR HAS BEEN DEBATING AND PREPARING FOR MAJOR REORGANIZATION OF ITS COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE STRUCTURE. WHAT WAS PROPOSED BY WORKING GROUP IN BANGKOK AND APPROVED BY 30TH PLENARY SESSION IN COLOMBO WAS COMMITTEE STRUCTURE BUILT AROUND NINE COMMITTEES COVERING THE NINE MAJOR AREAS OF ECAFE ACTIVITIES. THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS, SRI LANKA, USUALLY SUPPORTED BY INDIA, PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH, INSISTED THAT, BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE OF SHIPPING IN REGION AND BUREAUCRATIC OVERLAP OF SHIPPING MATTERS WITHIN EXISTING ECAFE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE, THERE SHOULD ALSO BE ESTABLISHED SHIPPING AND INVISIBLES COMMITTEE.

3. OUR POSITION, SHARED BY OTHERS, WAS AND IS THAT THE NINE AGREED-UPON COMMITTEES COVERED ECAFE'S MAIN AREAS OF INTEREST AND TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION IN CASE OF SHIPPING WOULD ONLY OPEN DOOR TO OTHER EXCEPTIONS PUT FORWARD BY OTHER SPECIAL INTERESTS. RESULT COULD BE UNDERMINING OF COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION WHICH WAS DESIGNED TO CONSOLIDATE RATHER THAN EXPAND.

4. WE AGREE, HOWEVER, WITH SRI LANKA THAT THERE HAS LONG BEEN AN OVERLAP IN ECAFE'S HANDLING OF SHIPPING BETWEEN, ON ONE HAND, ECAFE COMMITTEE AND SECRETARIAT

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DIVISION RESPONSIBLE FOR TRADE AND, ON OTHER, DIVISION AND COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION. SUGGESTION WAS MADE AT COLOMBO THAT SERIOUS EFFORT SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN TO SORT OUT SHIPPING FUNCTIONS BETWEEN THESE OVERLAPPING ORGANIZATIONS. WE SUPPORT THAT AND ARE WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH EFFORT IN BANGKOK TO CONSOLIDATE SHIPPING PROBLEMS AND ACTIVITIES UNDER ONE COMMITTEE (E.G. TRANSPORTATION) WITHIN NEW NINE-COMMITTEE

STRUCTURE. IT WOULD FOLLOW THAT SECRETARIAT SHIPPING
RESPONSIBILITIES WOULD THEN BE ASSIGNED TO DIVISION
HANDLING SAME GENERAL FIELD AS COMMITTEE SELECTED. SISCO
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